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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 09 MAY 2005

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Applicant's or agent's file reference P1524PC00		FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/IB04/01633	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 May 2004 (19.05.2004)		Priority date (day/month/year) 21 May 2003 (21.05.2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): A63F 9/24 and US Cl.: 463/29			
Applicant WATERLEAF LIMITED			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>3</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand 24 February 2005 (24.02.2005)		Date of completion of this report 30 April 2005 (30.04.2005)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer Corbett B. Coburn Telephone No. 571-272-3700	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/IB04/01633

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages 1-8 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages NONE as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages* 9-11 received by this Authority on 24 February 2005 (24.02.2005)
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages NONE as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. 16-18 _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to the sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to the sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Box No. I) (January 2004)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITYInternational application No.
PCT/IB04/01633**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement****Novelty (N)**Claims 1-15 **YES**
Claims _____ **NO****Inventive Step (IS)**Claims NONE **YES**
Claims 1-15 **NO****Industrial Applicability (IA)**Claims 1-15 **YES**
Claims NONE **NO****2. Citations and Explanations (Rule 70.7)**

Claims 1-15 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over CUMBERS '876.

Cumbers teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Cumbers teaches photographing the player each time the player plays the game. Cumbers teaches storing data representing play parameters for each game played. By law slot machines are required to store size of wager, type of wager, outcome of the game, amount won by the player, and any identification data gathered by the machine (i.e., the player's picture). This must be stored for each game in order for the game to meet the legal requirements in jurisdictions within the United States. A casino is required by law to be able to recreate each and every game played on a slot machine for a certain period of time. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Cumbers to provide a complete historical log of game play to comply with the law.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

NONE

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/IB04/01633

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of:

Claims

1. A player identification system, comprising:
 - 5 a betting terminal operable by a player to play at least one game thereon and to place a wager on an outcome of any turn of the game, the outcome of each turn the game being determined, at least in part, by chance;
 - 10 a camera associated with the betting terminal, the camera being arranged to capture an image of the player operating the betting terminal at least once during each turn of the at least one game; and
 - 15 a logging facility capable of logging, for each turn of the at least one game, logging data representative of a size and type of the wager placed by the player on the turn of the game, the corresponding outcome of that turn of the game, and the image of the player captured by the camera during the turn of the game.
2. A player identification system as claimed in claim 1 in which the betting terminal is operable by the player to play any one of a number of different selectable games.
- 20 3. A player identification system as claimed in claim 2 in which the camera is arranged to capture the image of the player operating the betting terminal at least once during each turn of any game being played by the player.
- 25 4. A player identification system as claimed in claim 3 in which the logging data is representative, also, of the particular game being played by the player.
- 30 5. A player identification system as claimed any one of the preceding claims in which the logging facility includes a non-volatile storage memory for storing the logging data thereon.

6. A player identification system as claimed in claim 5 in which the storage memory is configured as a rolling buffer capable of storing logging data relating to a number of the most recent turns of any games played by the player.

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7. A player identification system as claimed in claim 1 that includes an enquiry facility operable to display any logging data contained in the storage memory.

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8. A player identification system as claimed in claim 7 that includes a display monitor capable of displaying any image of the player contained in the storage memory.

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9. A method for identifying players at a betting terminal, comprising the steps of:

enabling a player to operate a betting terminal to play at least one game thereon and to place a wager on an outcome of any turn of the game, the outcome of each turn the game being determined, at least in part, by chance;

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capturing, at least once during each turn of the at least one game, a camera image of the player operating the betting terminal; and logging, for each turn of the at least one game, logging data representative of a size and type of the wager placed by the player on the turn of the game, the corresponding outcome of that turn of the game, and the image of the player captured by the camera during the turn of the game.

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10. A method as claimed in claim 9 that includes the step of enabling the player to operate the betting terminal to play any one of a number of different selectable games.

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11. A method as claimed in claim 10 that includes a step of capturing the image of the player operating the betting terminal at least once during each turn of any game being played by the player.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11 that includes a step of logging additional data representative of the particular game being played by the player.

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13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12 that includes a step of storing the logging data on a non-volatile storage memory.

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14. A method as claimed in claim 9 that includes a step of configuring the storage memory as a rolling buffer capable of storing logging data relating to a number of the most recent turns of any games played by the player.

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15. A method as claimed in claim 14 that includes a step of displaying any logging data contained in the storage memory on an enquiry facility having a display monitor.

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